

# THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION 877

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## BRIEFS

### DATA BREACH DISCOVERED AT IMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A data breach has occurred at Southern Baptists' International Mission Board (IMB) that may have exposed personal information of current and former employees, volunteers, and applicants. Letters mailed to affected individuals on July 6 said IMB "discovered unusual activity in our IT network" on April 11 and began an investigation that confirmed an "unknown external actor" gained access to personnel records that contained names, addresses, birth dates, contact information, Social Security numbers, and limited health information. A July 16 statement released to Baptist Press noted the breach did not affect the IMB's financial systems, email systems, or operational records, and that IMB officials have received no indication as of the date of the statement that the compromised data has been misused. IMB has provided the following points of contact for additional information: <https://ide.mycidcare.com/TS1845/>; frequently-asked-questions, or telephone (877) 291-4667.

### CHANGES APPROVED FOR FORMER DOMS

NASHVILLE (BP) — A recommended title change for workers formerly known as directors of missions was unanimously approved by the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders (SBCAL) to be considered by Baptist associations. The designation of "Associational Mission Strategist (AMS)," was among an SBCAL study committee's recommendations to more accurately reflect the range of strategies being utilized by local and regional associations of Baptist churches. SBCAL also recommend a new name for the organization's special observance on the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) calendar: Week of Prayer for Baptist Associations, which was formerly known as Associational Missions Emphasis. Even a new time frame for the Week of Prayer was recommended, moving it from May to the third week in October each year.



**WAITING TO GET OUT** — Members of the Haiti mission team from Petal First Church, prevented from fulfilling their trip because of social unrest in that country, patiently await word that the airport in Port-Au-Prince has reopened so they can return to Petal. The 14 members of the team arrived home on the evening of July 10. (Photo courtesy of Petal First Church)

## Miss. Baptists stranded in Haiti

### Petal First Church team forced to abort mission trip and return home on evening of July 10

PORT-AU-PRINCE (BP and local reports) — Safe flights from Haiti following a violent citizen uprising have allowed most Southern Baptist mission teams to return to the U.S., including at least one team of Mississippi Baptists.

Petal First Church's team, in Haiti under the auspices of But God Ministries in Jackson, found

themselves caught up in the turmoil after the Haiti national government's announcement of a sharp increase in gasoline prices led to deadly riots.

The group returned home safely on July 10, after being forced to abort their mission trip and leave the country early. "...[They] are sad to leave the Haitian people

and not get to do what they went there to do," according to an update posted on the church's Facebook page.

"(The group) is devastated," senior pastor Brad Eubank told The Petal News/hubcityspokes.com. "You've got some folks that have saved up a whole year, worked hard, sacrificed and had garage sales, trying to raise \$1,600 for a trip and then you don't even get to go do it. That's very disappointing."

"And they love the Haitian people — they want to minister to them, and love on them and share

see HAITI on p. 9

## GuideStone: Don't be rattled by tariffs talk

DALLAS (BP) — Current news of tariffs and trade disputes has added volatility to the financial markets due to the uncertainty it creates — but likely will have little impact on long-term investors, according to analysts with GuideStone Financial Resources, Southern Baptists' financial services entity based in Dallas.

Despite initial concerns that the moves could hamper growth, global markets have generally continued to trade in a narrow range while investors evaluate other, likely more impactful near-term economic developments.

Regardless of the economic news, GuideStone encourages long-term retirement investors to focus on their long-term objectives and not short-term headlines and social media posts.

"Sensationalist headlines meant to garner investors' atten-



SPIKA



HAWKINS

tion, such as Harley-Davidson moving some motorcycle production overseas, merely serve as a distraction to a long-term investment plan," said David Spika, chief strategic investment officer for GuideStone.

"While these headlines increase volatility to the markets in the short term as investors seek to react for better or worse to such news, history shows that long-term investors who don't try to time the market and its cycles are rewarded."

The Trump administration has positioned the tariffs imposed or proposed against China, Canada, the European Union, and other nations' goods as an opportunity to address trade imbalances between the United States and other countries.

Critics have contended that tariffs do more harm than good to American workers.

"The expectation from a data perspective is that the negative economic effects from the current and proposed tariffs are generally modest, as such tariffs are likely to have a minimal long-term impact on gross domestic product (GDP), especially when considering the broadly positive impact of the tax cuts," Spika observed.

"If one were to assume that the maximum amount of

see GUIDESTONE on p. 9

## Greear: Keep the SBC out of politics

DURHAM, N.C. (BP) — Keeping the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) out of politics remains a goal of its president and vice presidents, said newly-elected convention president J.D. Greear regarding their recent endorsements of U.S. President Donald Trump's nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, Brett Kavanaugh.

"All three of us have a desire to keep the SBC out of politics, but we also want to speak with clarity in those places we feel like there is clarity, and when it came to potential justice Kavanaugh, here's somebody who has a history of standing for the sanctity of life and religious liberty," Greear said in a July 12 Facebook Live interview.

Greear, SBC first vice president A.B. Vines, and SBC second vice president Felix Cabrera publicly endorsed Kavanaugh on July 9. Several SBC entity leaders and former SBC presidents are among 39 signers of the endorsement (visit [tinyurl.com/erlc123](http://tinyurl.com/erlc123)).

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Misplaced worship

For the average Martian who lands on earth, it must be truly difficult to understand the fame and fortune America provides its celebrities. While the world tries to cope with history-making earthquakes and tsunamis, deal with nuclear arms proliferation, and catalog untreatable diseases emerging from deforestation around the world, we Americans spend hours and hours in front of our high-definition televisions trying to get a glimpse of Britney Spears' cellulite and Brad Pitt's marital misfortune.

Poison gas is loose in the Middle East and Muslim extremists put all our lives in jeopardy, but what we really want to know about are the latest vulgar shenanigans of the Kardashians. It appears we are much more interested in spending our time preying on the stars than praying for the lost.

We adore celebrities. We can't get enough of them, and it seems the worse their behavior the more we crave knowledge about them. We obviously prefer the rap music lifestyle over the Christian lifestyle. Even celebrity wife beaters are elevated to god-like status.

There is apparently no indignity we won't swallow to keep this social insanity going, but occasionally someone or some situation comes along that stuns even the most jaded celebrity worshippers. Such is the twisted, years-ago saga of James Frey that behooves occasional review.

Avid readers will remember Frey for his perverse 2003 autobiographical book, *A Million Little Pieces*. That book, of course, was proven to be a massive fraud filled with lies and misleading descriptions about his life experiences. He initially defended the book as a true and realistic depiction of his life, but was ultimately forced to admit his artifice on national television and include an author's note in all subsequent printings of the book.

Frey received his just dues — American style. He immediately achieved celebrity status and signed a seven-figure, three-book deal with one of the largest publishers in the U.S. How has Frey used this second chance at public redemption? He has taken it upon himself to self-publish his latest

masterpiece, *The Final Testament of the Holy Bible*. Apparently no legitimate publisher will touch it.

According to a March 14, 2011, article in the *New York Post*, Frey's lead character in the book, Ben Jones, is depicted as the Messiah, a destitute alcoholic and pot smoker in the Bronx who impregnates a prostitute, seduces men, and teaches his followers that the Bible is "antiquated" and "meaningless."

The *Post* also quotes Jones the Messiah in the book as preaching, "Faith is what you use to oppress, to justify, to judge in the name of God... a means to rationalize more evil in this world than anything in history. If there were a devil, faith would be his greatest invention."

Lovely. Frey told the *Post* that the novel is "a theoretical third volume of the Bible — there was the Old, there was the New, and this is the Final. I'm sure the religious right will go crazy because the story of Ben... is hardly the Messiah they have in mind. But I don't really care... I tried to write a radical book... I'm releasing it in a radical way."

Apparently, part of his radical strategy was to release the book on Good Friday for "maximum impact in the U.S.," the *Post* article noted.

It should surprise no one that Frey's handiwork was a huge success, despite his track record of fabrication and untruthfulness. Shame on America for glorifying such trash, in the name of celebrity worship and at the expense of our Lord and Savior.

Jesus Christ is hardly the figure presented in novels like *The Final Testament of the Bible*, but it's not by accident that He is almost always depicted in modern literature and the entertainment industry as loathsome, licentious, and self-serving.

In truth, He is the resurrected Son of God who sits at the right hand of the Father, dressed in robes of pure radiance the brightness of which we cannot imagine. He is indeed coming again, but it won't be as a sexually opportunistic alcoholic and drug user in a dingy New York City borough.

Some of us get that, and some of us don't. It makes a difference. It really does. On that fateful day of judgment, there will be no doubt which side each of us chose.

## Building Community

We all know we were created for community with God and one another (Matthew 22:37-40). Yet finding it can be hard and nurturing it is even harder.

God's design for true community is more than having a group of girlfriends around your age with whom you go shopping or have over for dinner occasionally. It is something much deeper and altogether more than we could ever create ourselves. It is a faithful few walking in the same direction, sharing life, and sharpening one another in Christ and for His glory.

Community finds its beginning and growth and multiplication in the body of Christ (Acts 2:41-47). So how do we find true community? It starts with taking a risk, extending the invitation, and welcoming the interruptions. If we want community we must plant ourselves and commit to our local church, for that is where God designed true community to begin, grow, and multiply.

As a former women's minister, I know there are many women who have been wounded by other sisters. If you're reading this and have been wounded by another sister in Christ, I want in the same breath to acknowledge your pain, ask God to continue to shine His mercy and healing on you, and with an arm linked in yours gently ask you to take the risk again toward letting a wise and mature sister in Christ into your life. Our God cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).

Community requires us to be vulnerable and share that from which God has redeemed us and what He is walking us through now, but it also requires us to recognize the lies of the Evil One — lies that keep us from taking the risk and walking in power.

If you need someone to release you or give you permission, let this be the day you take off your mask and allow people into your life. In Christ, there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1), and as sisters in Christ we have no rivals (Galatians 3:26-28). We are free to share life and grow in Christ together.

Whether it's over coffee or day-old bread, reach out to another sister this



### Guest opinion

with Melissa Meredith

week. While you won't connect with everyone (and that's OK), don't let your past or present encounters keep you from extending the invitation.

Nourishing a new community takes time, prayer, and welcoming the "interruptions" that come from caring for one another. Did you know that Scripture contains 59 verses that beckon those in community to care for one another? Here are just a few:

■ Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2).

■ Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32).

■ Care for one another (1 Corinthians 2:25-27; Philippians 2:3-16).

■ Build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

■ Spur one another toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).

Are you looking for community? Remember you are not alone. Take the risk. Extend the invitation — and by all means welcome the interruptions that will sharpen and sweeten your life.

Meredith is the director of Southwestern Seminary's Horner Home-making House, and a graduate of the seminary with a master of divinity with a concentration in women's studies. This column is adapted from the seminary's Biblical Woman website, [biblicalwoman.com](http://biblicalwoman.com), and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for length and style.

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**DEADLY CLASH** — Armed Fulani herdsmen are accused of burning homes and killing as many as 120 Christians leaving the funeral of a pastor's father Saturday in Plateau State. (Screen capture from Empire One News in Nigeria)

## Nigeria Christians slaughtered by Muslim extremist Fulani sect

**PLATEAU, Nigeria (BP)** — Armed Muslim extremist Fulani herdsmen killed 120 Christian mourners and injured others leaving a weekend funeral in Plateau State of Nigeria, a local pastor reported — but other casualty counts exceed 200.

"Fulani people attacked our members who attended the burial of the father (of) one of our clergy," Pam Chollom, a pastor who leads the Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Regional Church Council, told the Premium Times of Nigeria June 24.

"The armed Fulani ambushed the sympathizers on their way back from the burial, attacked and killed 34 persons from Nekan village, 39 others from Kufang, and 47 people from Ruku village," Chollom reported.

Worshippers fearing further attacks did not attend June 24 Sunday services at any churches in the Gashish district of Barkin Ladi Local Government Area in Plateau, according to View Point Nigeria news.

Baptist Press previously reported the death count at 86 based on press statements from Plateau police but other casualty counts range from 106 to more than 200. View Point Nigeria said June 27 that the official death toll might have been skewed because some corpses were taken away before police arrived to assess the tragedy.

Morning Star News cited sources that put the death toll higher as well, comprising weekend attacks in 10 predominantly Christian villages in Barkin Ladi.

"In Ngar village alone, about 70 corpses of Christians were recovered and the entire village has been burnt down by the Fulani herdsmen," Morning Star quoted 45-year-old resident Thomas Chuwang, who said those killed were COCIN members.

Fellow resident Dogo Nvou told Morning Star, "It is only God Who can comfort us all."

A Morning Star count of 216 corpses collected during the weekend at two area morgues is in line with other news reports of mass casualties at the Accident and Emergency Unit of Jos University teaching hospital.

The COCIN worship center and the pastor's home in Kakuruk village are among the buildings herdsmen destroyed, Kakuruk resident Christiana Audu told Morning Star.

"The church building, pastor's house, and many other houses were destroyed by the herdsmen as they set fire on houses," Morning Star News quoted a text message from Audu. "I saw one corpse as I was escaping. More than 200 of us have escaped to the military base near our village."

Plateau Gov. Simon Lalong put the death toll at more than 200, Morning Star reported, as did Nigerian House of Representatives speaker Yakubu Dogara on Twitter. Thousands of residents were displaced after losing their homes and crops, Lalong said.

Dogara described the death toll as "about 200 people in the Church of Christ in Nations" in tweets demanding Nigerian President Muhammadu Bu-

hari strengthen security. "Our security agencies must rise up to the task of securing the lives of citizens of this country," Dogara tweeted.

The attack reportedly lasted from 1:00 p.m. Friday (June 22), and lasted till about 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. Where was the Police and other security agencies that they failed to respond to stop the killings?" he asked.

The violence precedes Nigerian national elections in February 2019, when Buhari faces reelection. Lalong told Morning Star the unabated violence was spurring widespread criminal activity, including "cattle rustling, theft, banditry, gun running, and other forms of crimes amongst our citizens."

Militant Fulani herdsmen have targeted farmers, mostly Christian, killing them and stealing their land to graze cattle in an ages-old land dispute — but the latest attack extended outside the farming community.

Buhari will restructure security in the area, Dogara told Ripples Nigeria after meeting today with the president. Buhari, himself of Fulani heritage, has lamented the violence and accused his detractors of blaming him because of his heritage.

Militant Fulani herdsmen were characterized as a terrorist group as early as 2014, when the Global Terrorism Index described them as the fourth deadliest terrorist group in the world following Boko Haram, also based in Nigeria; the Islamic State also known as ISIS headquartered in Syria; and al-Shabab in Somalia.

## Critics applauding end of Channel One school broadcasts

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Channel One, the daily TV newscast for schoolchildren that once drew criticism from a Southern Baptist Convention resolution, announced June 27 that it has ceased daily broadcasting.

The announcement was greeted with celebration from the conservative group Eagle Forum, which said in a July 11 news release that Channel One's 12-minute newscast for "a captive audience" of public school students and included commercials that "encouraged materialism" and promoted movies with "inappropriate behavior not condoned by parents."

Bobbie Patray, president of Tennessee Eagle Forum, told Baptist Press she is "very happy" at Channel One's announcement because she has been "very concerned" about it over the years. Patray served on the Resolutions Committee at the 1999 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and played a role in developing a resolution that declared "the advertising and commercial use of Channel One unfortunate and an erroneous educational strategy."

"God created people to be very visual," Patray said, "and when we see things, it has an impact on us," including the objectionable Channel One advertisements shown to teens and preteens without parents' knowledge.

According to the June 27 announcement on Channel One's website, the broadcast ran 28 years and ceased after the 2017-2018 school year because of concerns related to "return on investment" and "strategic coherence" of its parent company's "product portfolio."

In the late 1990s, some 40% of all 11- to 18-year-olds in America watched Channel

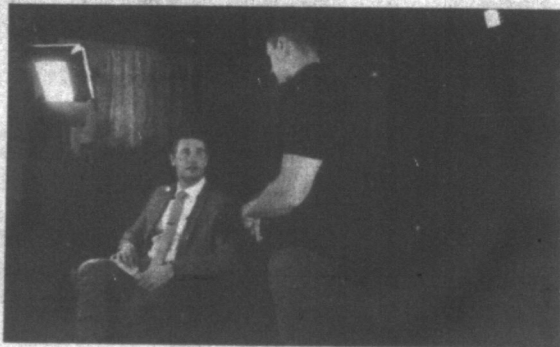
One because their school districts signed contracts with the network, the late Eagle Forum President Phyllis Schlafly told Congress in 1999. Those contracts provided schools with televisions and other electronic equipment in exchange for a promise to show the daily newscast.

The SBC's resolution put the number of daily student viewers at eight million and called on school administrators and community leaders "to work to remove Channel One from their school districts."

The SBC resolution stated, "Channel One advertising includes promotion of junk foods; chat rooms and 'Personal Ads' message boards; movies such as Eddie Murphy's Holy Man and Adam Sandler's The Water Boy, both of which are age-inappropriate for the students who see these ads; movies with sexually suggestive content such as Never Been Kissed; movies with ultra-violent themes such as The Muny Quest; television shows like Stephen King's The Shining and Buffy the Vampire Slayer; sexualized magazines like Seventeen; and has broadcast the music of groups known for... violent and sexually explicit lyrics such as the satanic rock band, Marilyn Manson."

In 2000, Channel One gave Southern Baptists partial credit when it announced it would begin screening ads for PG-13 movies to determine their appropriateness for high school audiences.

Patray noted that in recent years, opposition to Channel One seems to have quieted. Archived Channel One broadcasts remain available through the network's website, including an edition for grades three through five and another for grades six-12.



**OFF THE AIR** — After 28 years of controversial newscasts for in-school use, Channel One announced June 27 that the 2017-18 academic year was its last year of broadcasts. (Screen capture from ChannelOne.com)

For weeks, the entire world watched and listened for updates on the group of young men who were part of a soccer team that had gone with their coach into a cave in Thailand. The first we heard of them was when it was discovered they were stranded in that dark cave. Then came the encouraging and exciting word that they had been located and were alive. As the story unfolded, it certainly became more intriguing because they had been lost for nine days in a cave where the rising waters had pushed them farther and farther underground. They were in total darkness, unprepared for the moment, and it was unthinkable that twelve young men and their coach were going through. They could not escape. They had no food. They were desperate. All they could do was wait.

After nine days, the word went out across news outlets that they had been found. Oh, what a relief that was! In a sense, though, that was only the beginning of the story. They were found but at the time, it seemed impossible that they would be able to get out. All the rescue people started gathering to try to figure out how they could go about rescuing them from their dilemma. If it were possible for us to spend maybe an hour or two hours in total darkness, cold and hungry with no contact with anyone outside the folks in the same condition we are in, wondering if anybody was trying to find us, wondering if we would ever be found, or if there would ever be the possibility of escaping.

The highly trained Thai SEALs and other divers from across the world no doubt realized that it would be almost impossible to get them out. Most if not all the boys could not even swim. To get them out of the cave meant the boys were going to have to go underwater through some areas and swim across other areas to get to the cave opening. Monsoon rains were predicted. The water would rise even higher. One of the possibilities being discussed was drilling a relief hole which, if they were to get all the equipment to the mountain above the boys and start drilling down, would probably take



## Directions

With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## Rescued!

months. The whole world was captivated by this unbelievable scene.

The boys were not in good shape, having gone without food and good water for so long. You begin to wonder how in the world did they even exist through nine days until they were discovered there in that cave. For me, I got conditioned that every time the news was on I would want to hear about the boys, their conditions, and the possibilities of them getting rescued. While there was a lot of discussion and hundreds of skilled divers and rescue workers gathered, there was still no easy way to get them out.

Then came early Sunday morning, July 8. Word went out around the world that a rescue effort was underway. None of the particulars of how they were going about it or what they were doing were released, and so there was no way to know if they were going to get one person out or five would escape or if they would rescue all of them in one day.

I was watching the news in the background as I was preparing to drive to where I was going to preach that Sunday, but my mind and my heart were wrapped up in the rescue effort. I wasn't there, but for days I had been praying somehow, somehow, God would provide an opportunity for those boys to escape. For me, it was one of those experiences in

prayer where I was on the other side of the world and even if I was there at the cave opening, I was not prepared to go in there, find those boys, and bring them out though my heart would want to do it. I couldn't do it, but I did pray for them and I prayed that God would be merciful to them and somehow be glorified in all of us being joined together in seeing Him at work to allow gifted, prepared people to bring the boys to safety.

As the rescue effort unfolded, the first word came that two of the boys had been rescued. What an amazing thing. I knew there were ten other boys and their coach still in there, but now two of the boys were out and on the way to the hospital. In the midst of it all, they had been rescued.

The word, "rescued," kept coming to my heart and I thought about all of us, every man and woman on the planet, who have found ourselves trapped in the darkness, in the hopelessness of sin, and needing someone to come and rescue us. It is a fairly well-known but little used verse from Isaiah that has to do with the Christmas story. Isaiah 9:2, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." It is focused on Jesus coming to us, bringing hope and help to us, coming to rescue us. In fact, one of the first New Testament words we have about Jesus

coming to be our rescuer is in Matthew 1:21, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." The word is saved. Rescue us.

Hardly a day goes by for me, and I'm sure for many of you, that you don't see or know of somebody, some situation, some family member, someone that you know but haven't had contact with in a while who is in a dilemma and you wish something could be done. You wish hope could come. You long for a rescuer to come to the dilemma they are facing in their lives. My friends, Jesus can rescue us from the darkness and despair of our world. The hopelessness of being stuck and un-rescuable. He has come and He can deliver us.

Rescued! Over the next three days, four more boys were rescued, then four more were rescued, and the final day on Tuesday it was announced around the world that the last four boys and the coach had been brought out of what initially appeared to be a sealed death sentence. The good news was that they were rescued. The good news is that rescue has come to us - to me, to you, we all. As I rejoiced in what had taken place, I thought again and again of what had transpired.

There was one thought that kept everything moving forward to the rescue and that thought was the urgency. The urgency on the part of the rescuers and divers not to give up but to press on. The urgency to get to the boys, to find some way to get them out, to rescue them. I suppose it is that one thing that too often is missing in our heartbeats to reach a world for Christ. We get sidetracked by circumstances around us. We get diverted to other things and just forget about the urgency of reaching someone. We lose the passion that Jesus had and maintains to reach a lost world. Oh, that the urgency and the awareness of the need would be in our hearts day by day, never to lose sight of those who are stuck in the dilemma of darkness and hunger.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## 75 FOUNDATION FLASHBACKS

Highlights from the history of your Mississippi Baptist Foundation, shared in the format of their original publication in *The Baptist Record*.

### Robinson Street Church continues to be a witness

By Aubrey L. Boone  
Student Union.

The leaders and membership of Robinson Street Church, Jackson, are to be commended for their desire to be a positive witness for our Lord when the church found it necessary to disband. This was accomplished by investing the money received from the sale of their property with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and designating the income from these investments to benefit The Baptist Children's Village, Mississippi College, Crestwood Center, and the Bag-

During the past 12 months these institutions received almost \$60,000 to be used for child care, scholarship aid, help for the needy, and Baptist Student Union work.

We have received reports from each institution stating how the funds are used. These reports are on file in the office of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

Boone is executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

When congregations like Robinson Street are faced with the difficult decisions related to disbanding, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation is here to help. Visit us at [msbaptistfoundation.org](http://msbaptistfoundation.org), or use the QR code below for a direct link, to discover how other Mississippi Baptists have been encouraged by opportunities to support Kingdom building even after their weekly gatherings cease. Call us at 601-292-3210 to learn more about how the MBF can partner with you and your church.



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Clue: V=Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 6:28

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004; © 2005



# Baptists witness at 2018 World Cup Russian venues

**ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (BP)** — Russia's 2016 law restricting evangelism may have curtailed some traditional Gospel-sharing efforts at World Cup venues this summer, but through innovative witnessing techniques such as soccer viewing parties at churches and jazz band concerts, evangelicals still managed to harness the world's largest sporting event for witness.

"I don't know anything about soccer," said Justin Pierce, assistant professor in instrumental music at Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) in Shawnee. "God orchestrated everything and lined it up" for members of the university's Bison Jazz Orchestra to take a mission trip to St. Petersburg, Russia, at the height of World Cup play.

A 10-piece jazz group led by Pierce partnered with St. Petersburg Christian University and the mission groups International Sports Federation and Young Life to play concerts, conduct sports camps, and do other service projects in St. Petersburg during World Cup play from June 13-24.

The June 14-July 15 World Cup featured 32 teams playing in 11 Russian cities, including St. Petersburg. The World Cup final, a matchup between France and Croatia won by France, was held July 15 in Moscow.

Former International Mission Board (IMB) worker Jerry Barnwell teamed with the OBU jazz band in the outreach effort



**WHERE THERE'S A WILL...** — Despite Russian legal restrictions on evangelism, evangelicals found way to reach out with the love of Christ during World Cup matches in St. Petersburg. (BP photo)

as part of a mission team from Gateway Church, a nondenominational congregation in Austin, Texas. Barnwell served with IMB for 17 years in Europe.

Together, the two teams planted Gospel seeds at their concerts and camps, with at least two young men they worked with coming to faith in Christ following the teams' departure, Barnwell told Baptist Press. The teams also built relationships and engaged in Gospel conversations at "fan

zones," where locals and tourists gathered to watch soccer matches.

Barnwell remembers one fruitful spiritual conversation at a jazz club the mission teams rented for an afternoon concert.

"We had a big party on the rooftop" of the club for attendees of soccer and volleyball camps, Barnwell said. "We just had chances to talk and then walk downtown, where there was one of the fan clubs, and we watched one of the games."

Pierce said the jazz band presented the Gospel at its concerts and shared testimonies of how God has worked in band members' lives through music.

"Our music was sort of an exciting, unusual thing for [Russian] students to hear," Pierce said, noting some Russian youth "may have never had interaction with a church in their life" before encountering the believers from OBU and Gateway.

While some Christian groups have reported anti-evangelism

crackdowns by Russian authorities during the World Cup, Barnwell and Pierce said their groups did not experience religious liberty restrictions. Barnwell noted, however, that Russia's 2016 law curbing evangelism could yield a government crackdown at sports camps not hosted by authorized religious institutions.

The 2016 law requires that evangelism be confined to officially-recognized church buildings and bans distribution of certain types of religious messages through mass print, broadcast, or online media.

In an effort to abide by those restrictions, Russian churches have hosted outreach-oriented viewings of World Cup matches in nearly 400 locations across 50 cities, reaching some 10,000 people, Religion News Service (RNS) reported.

One evangelism team in each city was detained in Moscow, Kaliningrad, and Ekaterinburg, for talking with people about Christ and distributing literature in public places, RNS reported July 9. The teams were released without any charges being filed, but their literature was confiscated.

Sally Hinzle, a member of First Church in Houston, Texas, coordinates trips to Russia for the local Union Baptist Association. She told Baptist Press that "harassment of the churches [in Russia] is increasing," and U.S. mission teams "have to be very, very careful."

## Alleged abortion reporting law violations spotlighted in Indiana

**INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.(BP)** — While members of the U.S. Congress call for a national investigation of Planned Parenthood for failing to report the suspected sexual abuse of minors, pro-life activists and two U.S. Congressmen from Indiana are confronting matters in their home state.

Indiana Right to Life announced the filing of 48 consumer complaints against nine Indiana abortionists who allegedly failed to follow state reporting laws regarding abortions they performed on girls under the age of 16 and as young as 10. The law requires abortionists to report such abortions to the Indiana State Department of Health and the Department of Child Services within three days of the procedure.

"The doctors' failures to indicate this step was taken demonstrate that they may have violated the law, possibly deliberately, and thereby possibly allowed for the continuation of

abuse," wrote U.S. Reps. Jim Banks and Todd Rokita, both Republicans, in a letter to Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill, also a Republican.

The two congressmen urged Hill to investigate the claims against Planned Parenthood, which have also been alleged in other states.

The Indiana reporting law took effect last July, bringing the reporting requirement into alignment with Indiana's age of consent for sexual activity, which is 16. Prior to 2017, the law only required reporting for abortions on girls ages 14 and under.

Echoing pro-life advocates' requests, the representatives called for an "immediate investigation" of the abortionists, the facilities where they work, and their use of Title X funds. They also encouraged the suspension of medical licenses and abortion facility licenses while the investigation is ongoing.

Mike Fichter, president of Indiana Right to Life, said his

organization requests termination-of-pregnancy reports every year and looks for errors. This year it found 48 instances of noncompliance.

In 2016, the group's work resulted in the suspension of an abortionist's medical license for his failure to report abortions he performed on girls as young as 10.

"What we hope to see is the full investigation surfacing, whether or not the abortions on these young girls were reported to the Department of Child Services," Fichter said.

"If they were not, and the attorney general's investigation proves that out, we will pursue the full revocation of every license of a doctor that failed to report in the state of Indiana as well as the revocation of operating licenses for the abortion businesses themselves that pay these individuals to do the abortions," he warned.

Fichter is confident the Indiana attorney general will launch

they're admitting that they're not gonna report cases of statutory rape. The response from my supervisor was, "Your job is to teach them the key concepts, and that's it." She was really upset with me that I challenged that."



**MONICA CLINE**

FORMER HIV HEALTH EDUCATOR

TITLE X TRAINING MANAGER AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

**IN THE FIGHT** — Indiana pro-lifers are stepping up their organizational efforts after an investigation by Live Action, a pro-life group based in Arlington, Va., detailed in a recent video series how Planned Parenthood workers fail to report suspected sexual abuse of minors to authorities. (Screen grab courtesy of YouTube)

a thorough investigation, but he doesn't expect the county prosecutors to take any action. He noted that in Lake, Monroe, and Marion counties specifically, Democratic prosecutors recently said they would not defend a new pro-life law undergoing a legal challenge.

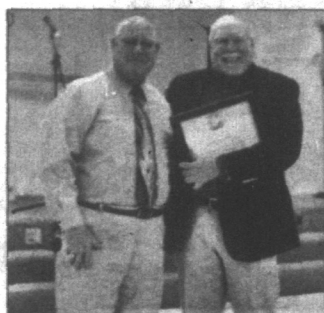
The recent actions by Indiana pro-lifers come on the heels of a separate investigation by Live Action, a pro-life group that detailed in a recent video series how Planned Parenthood

workers also fail to report suspected sexual abuse of minors to authorities.

In response to that report, 56 members of Congress urged the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to launch an investigation.

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## College News

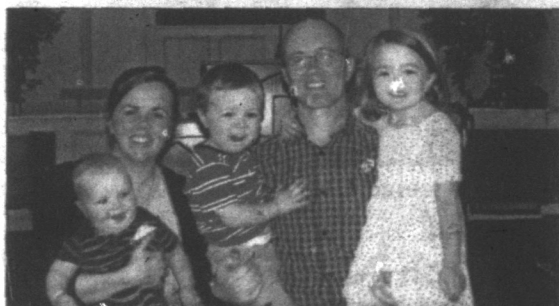


The Northwest Community College **BSU ADVISORY COMMITTEE** honored retiring BSU director Tom McLaughlin with a reception May 24 and an appreciation certificate for years of service. The certificate was presented by J. Courtney Selvy, president of the Advisory Committee. Shown are Selvy and McLaughlin.

### In other College News:

► **Mississippi College** president Blake Thompson will address the class of 2018 at MC's graduation ceremonies Aug. 4. It marks the first time Thompson will speak at an MC commencement since taking office July 1. The program begins at 10 a.m. at the A.E. Wood Coliseum. About 241 students will receive diplomas.

## Staff Changes



**RAWLS SPRINGS CHURCH, HATTIESBURG**, has called Adam Wade (top photo) as pastor. He is a native of Covington County and attended Seminary Attendance Center and William Carey University. He is shown with his wife Jessica and children, Darcy June, A.J., and baby Owen Ray. The church has also called Nicholas Losito (bottom photo) as youth minister. He is a graduate of the University of Mobile and is currently enrolled at Southern Seminary. He is shown with his wife Lydia.



Tommy Winders began serving as pastor of **BISSELL CHURCH, TUPELO**, July 1. He had been interim pastor since Jan. 1. He is shown with his wife Diane.

## Just for the Record



Youth from **CALVARY CHURCH, SUMMIT**, attended M-Fuge at Mississippi College July 2. Shown are Leanne Bradford, Brentley Tullos, Elijah Burns, Abigail Burns, Kaylen Simpson, and Peyton Lawrence. Pastor Mike Burns and Shelley Bradford, leaders.



The GA's of **SUNRISE CHURCH, LEAKE COUNTY**, went to Garaywa Camp and Conference Center. Shown, back, are Ariel Stewart, Julianna Johnston, and Jessy Ingram; front, Laykin Musgrove, Destany Griffin, Krislyn Vowell, Laura McMillon, and Karlie Biggers.



**VICTORY CHURCH, BASSFIELD**, recently held a baby dedication. Shown are the children dedicated with their parents and Nathan Barber, pastor.



**FIRST CHURCH, MORTON**, recently baptized and added new members. Shown, front, are Zelle Manning, Less Cohran, Chloe Prestage, Betsy Comfort, and Mikey Craig; back, Marty Wilson.



**ETHEL CHURCH, ETHEL**, held a deacon ordination service July 8 for Edward Scott Walters. Shown are pastor Ralph Hunt, Edward Scott Walters II, Walters, and Sandra Walters.



The **SCOTT COUNTY WMU** sponsored its 2nd Annual Women of Hope Rally on June 23 at **FIRST CHURCH, MORTON**. The speaker for the day was Cyndi Loftin Grace, author of "Preparing Our Hearts for Prayer." The local Morton Church of God Ladies' Praise Team led worship through music.



## Just for the Record



The younger GA's of **SUNRISE CHURCH, LEAKE COUNTY**, went to camp at Central Hills Baptist Retreat recently. Shown are Emmalee Ray, Emma Vankomen, Lathan Sanders, Raylee Quick, Emmie McDaniel, Laura McMillon, and Marlie Clair Kelly.



**VICTORY CHURCH, HERNANDO**, recently held a baby dedication. Pastor David Thomas led the church in the dedication service.

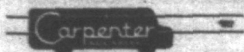
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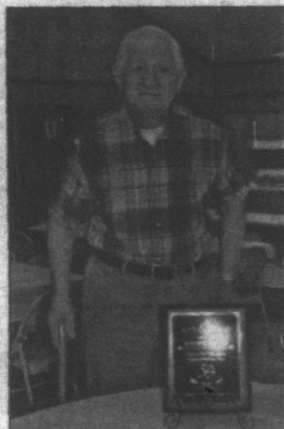
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**FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, STATE LINE**, recognized and honored Wayne Smith for 50 years of service as deacon July 1. The church presented him a plaque and his family presented the church with new tablecloths for the Lord's Supper in honor of Smith and in memory of their mother, Margaret Ann Smith. A time of recognition was also held at the annual 4th of July Celebration that night in honor of Smith with cake and fellowship.

### In other Church News:

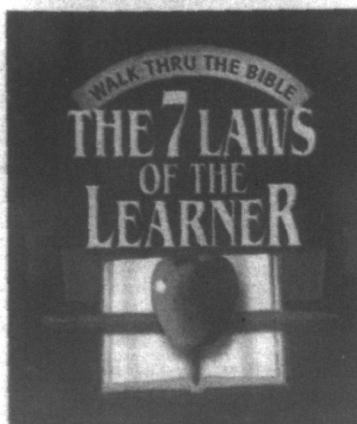
► **Salem Church, Lake**, is hosting The Tribute Quartet in concert July 22, 6 p.m. For information, call (601) 775-8272. Love offering.



**CALVARY CHURCH, SUMMIT**, held a baby dedication June 24. Three families participated: Jake and Jacie Fortenberry with Jace and James, Emily and Dustin Smith with Rhett, Hayden Alexander, brother to Alex Reed with mom Nicole Alexander and dad Derek Reed. Mike Burns is Pastor.



**FIRST CHURCH, SOSO**, recently held a baby dedication to honor their newest mothers. Pictured (left to right) are Chris Douglas, Minister of Students, Cody and Emily with Luke Owen Buchanan, Blake and Hollie with Sutton Blake Skipper, Jason and Melissa with Emma Katherine Todd, and P. J. Weeks, Interim Pastor.



### Not Too Late to Register!

To register go to [www.mbc.org/7laws](http://www.mbc.org/7laws)

July 28 – FBC, Tupelo  
August 4 – FBC, Clinton  
August 18 – Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

### Time

Check in 8:45 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Cost

\$13 Pre-registration (\$15 at the door) with covers lunch and breaks.

[Cooperative Program covers notebook and supplies]



The youth of **LITTLE BAHALA CHURCH, WESSON**, attended Camp Livingstones in Englewood, Tenn.

# NYC honors African American Southern Baptist pastor

**NEW YORK (BP and local reports)** — New York City has renamed two streets to honor the late Samuel Simpson, noted as a pioneering African American Southern Baptist pastor and community revitalizer who died in 2015.



SIMPSON

"Reverend Dr. Samuel G. Simpson Way" marks the corner of 187th Street and Tiebout Avenue outside Bronx Church, and the corner of Strang and Murdock Avenues outside Wake-Eden Community Church — two congregations Simpson founded.

It's highly unusual for New York City to name two streets for one individual, said Frank Williams, the current pastor of both congregations who remembers Simpson as a leader, mentor, and friend.

"The longer I'm in ministry, the more my appreciation grows for the wisdom, the patience, and the insight that Dr. Simpson had with me while I had the opportunity to learn under his leadership," Williams told Baptist Press (BP)

days after the July 2 ceremonies renaming the streets. "He demonstrated a love for people that I now realize is one of the key components of becoming a pastor. ...I've found myself actually functioning like him more and more."

Simpson, a Jamaican immigrant, was highly regarded in Southern Baptist life at the local, state, and national levels as a pioneer in racial reconciliation, and in New York City as a leader who helped revitalize a blighted and underserved Bronx after community unrest and riots during the 1960s and 1970s.

He was widely known in New York City as the "Bishop of the Bronx."

Jackson native Ken Weathersby, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee vice president for convention advancement in Nashville and a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, also commended Simpson.

"He was able to work across cultural barriers to make a great impact for Jesus Christ in New York City and in the SBC," Weathersby, who is currently serving as a trustee for Mississippi College,

told BP. "I was blessed to be in his presence many times. His favorite statement, 'God is good. It is good to be good, and it is good to do good.'"

Michael Chance, minister of encouragement at Graffiti Church and Community Ministries in New York City, became friends with Simpson while serving as staff development director of the Metro New York Association.

"He was just a remarkable, remarkable man," Chance said. "He just had a spirit of humility. He was full of graciousness. No matter who you were, he respected you. He talked with you as someone who deserved respect."

"When he and Mrs. Lola [Simpson's wife] first came to the Bronx, God really laid it upon his heart to do Bible studies and plant ministries through every neighborhood in the Bronx," Chance said. "That part of the Bronx was just full of burned out buildings. There was gang activity." Samuel Simpson and others worked to rebuild the area, focusing on Christian and urban renewal.

Samuel Simpson died in February 2015 at the age of 83. His

widow told of his pioneering work as an African American Southern Baptist in New York, sharing a memory of when he told fellow black pastors in the 1960s that he was Southern Baptist.

"They laughed at him," she said in her remarks at the noon ceremony renaming the street outside Wake-Eden Community Church. "Those who lived here in the 1960s, you don't have to wonder why they laughed at him. ...He was a black man representing the Southern Baptist Convention in the Northeast, in New York, of all places."

When Samuel Simpson found a small home in which to plant a church with only a handful of members, other Southern Baptists stepped in to help.

"We started when the South Bronx was on fire in 1963," Lola Simpson said, "and the Southern Baptist Convention bought that building for \$25,000, and that is where all of this started and so, we thank the Southern Baptist Convention."

New York City council member Andy King, who presented the proclamation renaming the

streets, said the honor is not lightly given. "When we do in the City of New York a street renaming, [the signs] are beacons for our neighborhoods, reminders, that shining light, that inspiration that individual offered while they moved around in the flesh," King told Bronx News 12.

"When we rename the street Rev. Simpson, Rev. Simpson will always be an inspiration to those who look, and it tells the story of the impact the people had on our neighborhoods," he noted.

Samuel Simpson was a founding member and two-term president of the Clergy Coalition of the 47th Precinct of New York, and was a past chairman of the board for the Council of Churches of the City of New York.

He was also instrumental in founding several New York churches, including Protestant Community Church in Northern Bronx, Honeywell Chapel and New Hope Mission in Spring Valley, and Grace Chapel in the Bronx.

To read Samuel Simpson's obituary, visit [tinyurl.com/simpson234](http://tinyurl.com/simpson234).

## OBITUARIES

**Kenny Adair, 82**, long time Mississippi pastor, passed away June 16 at North Delta Hospice House in Southaven. He was born December 26, 1935, in Union County to the late Henry and Dolly Williams Adair. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. Adair first pastored West Tallahatchie Church, Myrtle, and retired from Neely Memorial Church, New Albany. He served many churches between the two. Funeral service was June 19 at United Funeral Service in New Albany with James Lewis and James Arnold officiating. Burial was at Vista Memorial Park in New Albany. He is survived by one daughter, Pam Klepzig (Steve) of Hernando; one son, Tim Adair of Pontotoc; one sister, Jane Cole (James) of Vernon, AL; one brother, William Adair (Glenda) of Ingomar; five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. In honor of his service to his country, United Funeral Service flew the U.S. Army flag during his visitation and funeral service.



ADAIR

**Kent Wood Megehee, 69**, Mississippi Baptist pastor for over 50 years, of the Henleyfield Community near Picayune, died June 20. He answered God's call to the Gospel ministry as a senior in high school in 1967. He was both licensed and ordained by his home church, Goodyear Church, Picayune. Megehee led churches in Bogalusa, La.; Yazoo City; and Laurel. He also worked in ten churches in Pearl River Association as pastor, associate



MEGEEHEE

pastor, and interim pastor. He was preceded in death by his mother, Lois Ludington Megehee; and his father and step-mother, Jesse and Helen Megehee. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Wise Megehee; one son, Woody Megehee (Cathy) of Brandon; two grandchildren; and two sisters: Lynda "Lynn" Megehee Stinson Picayune, and Jacque Traylor (Wayne) of Simpsonville, SC. A time of worship was held June 23 in the Picayune Funeral Home Chapel. Conducting the service were Gary Killen, Carl Myers, and Billy Kent Smith. Interment was in Henleyfield Cemetery, Carriere.

**Paul Gene Cain, long time Mississippi Baptist pastor**, passed away on July 1. He was a 1961 graduate of Kosciusko High School, a 1965 graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, and a 1970 graduate of New Orleans Seminary where he received the master of theology degree. He taught school for two years at East Side Elementary in Kosciusko before going on to seminary. Cain pastored churches in Mississippi and Louisiana for fifty-three years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul Carnes and Rosie Ellington Cain; and brothers, Jimmie Dan and John. He is survived by his wife, Paulette "Polly" Cain; daughters, Stephanie Lee Martin (Craig), and Rachel Tharp (Jeff); five grandchildren; sister, Katherine Gould (James); and brother, David (Kathy). Funeral service was held July 6 at Culppeper Funeral Home Chapel in Kosciusko, with burial to follow at Coleman Cemetery, Kosciusko. Barry Corbett and Brad Latham officiated.



CAIN

## MS POSITIONS

**RICHMOND BAPTIST CHURCH IN RURAL LEE COUNTY, MS, NEAR TUPELO IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PRAISE TEAM LEADER/MUSIC MINISTER.** Email resume to [baptistworshipleader@gmail.com](mailto:baptistworshipleader@gmail.com)

**BRAXTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (SIMPSON COUNTY) IS SEEKING A PART TIME CONGREGATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR.** Resume and references required. Email [ainswpm@yahoo.com](mailto:ainswpm@yahoo.com) for job description and requirements.

**SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR - BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH.** Located at Meridian, MS in the Whynot community of Southern Lauderdale County. Please email resume to [office@whynotbaptist.org](mailto:office@whynotbaptist.org) or mail to Bethany Baptist Church, 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301.

**HEUCKS RETREAT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Persons interested may email resume to Corey Myers at [cmeyers13@yahoo.com](mailto:cmeyers13@yahoo.com) or mail to Heucks Retreat Baptist Church, 2167 Heucks Retreat Rd NE, Brookhaven, MS 39601, attn: Corey Myers. Position description available upon request. Deadline to apply is October 1, 2018.

**NESHOBA BAPTIST CHURCH, UNION, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL WORSHIP LEADER AND/OR YOUTH MINISTER.** Optional housing is available. Please email resume to [Neshobabaptist@gmail.com](mailto:Neshobabaptist@gmail.com) or mail to Neshoba Baptist Church, P.O. Box 174, Union, MS 39365.

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**GREEAR SPEAKS OUT** — SBC president J.D. Greear (right) explains the endorsements of the convention's three top officers for U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh in a July 12 Facebook Live interview with Todd Unzicker (left), pastor of sending at The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., where Greear serves as senior pastor. (Facebook screen capture)

## GREEAR

cont. from p. 1

Greear is senior pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C. Vines pastors New Seasons Church in San Diego, Ca. Cabrera leads Iglesia Bautista Central in Oklahoma City, Ok.

"Our community may disagree about where we vote at the end of the day," Greear said in the Facebook Live interview, "but we can agree that somebody who respects these things [life and religious liberty] and has a history of it, that's good for the nation and to build the Kingdom of God."

Todd Unzicker, pastor

of sending at The Summit Church, conducted the interview with Greear.

The endorsement of Kavanaugh stands or the Gospel that the Bible clearly delineates, Greear said in the interview.

"It's not that the Gospel is not political, because it is, because good policy is often how we love our neighbor," Greear said. "We recognize that there are some things the Bible's clear on, and then there's some things that Christians can disagree on... but where the Bible is clear, we should be clear so we want to show some constraint and not align ourselves with a particular platform or administration, but we do want to speak with clarity."

## HAITI

cont. from p. 1

the Lord with them. But at the end of the day, we can go back to Haiti. Safety and security come first."

Teams from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee also returned to the U.S. beginning July 9 after air travel resumed from the island nation. A team from Mt. Olivet Church in Hartwell, Ga., was still awaiting a flight to return home last weekend, according to Facebook posts.

A 35-member team of Louisiana Baptists arrived most recently at 1 a.m. on July 11 in New Orleans and traveled to their respective homes from there. In one day of outreach in Haiti's capital city, the team recorded 20 decisions for Christ during Vacation Bible School; installed a tile floor at a church; and trained 140 pastors and wives at a leadership conference, Tommy Middleton told Baptist Press (BP).

Middleton, director of missions of the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge, described the condition in Haiti as "a perfect storm" — an already impoverished citizenry hit by "astronomical gas prices" that fueled riots of gunfire and flames.

While BP previously reported gas prices of five dollars per gallon, Middleton said the cost was

actually five dollars per liter — about \$20 a gallon.

"There are wonderful people there," Middleton told BP, "and I pray one day [Haiti] gets a government that would be more reflective and responsive" to people's needs.

Middleton has traveled to Haiti perhaps 10 times among 50 or more international mission trips, he said, but has never encountered such unrest in Haiti.

He believes team members were strengthened by the experience. "These things grow your faith. There was never a point when the group... reacted with a spirit of panic. The Lord kept us in the eye of the storm," Middleton said, referring to the becalmed inner portion of a hurricane as the violent front and back sides pass through an area.

A leader in Haiti who partners with Louisiana Baptists risked his life to walk to the Croix-des-Bouquets compound almost daily from July 7-10, he said, where Louisiana Baptists sheltered in place with perhaps 90 Southern Baptists on mission from other states.

James Jenkins, church planting director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, was driving to Shreveport when he spoke with BP around noon on July 12.

It was calm when the team left Port-au-Prince, he said, where riots days earlier had left four Hai-

tians dead and forced officials to close the airport over the weekend.

"We left very early in the morning," he said. "The roadblocks were open."

With their mission outreach active only one day before rioting began, team members were resolute and resolved to return to the island on future mission trips, said Jenkins, pastor of Baptist Bible Fellowship in Shreveport.

"I think for the most part, most are ready to go back," Jenkins said. "I can speak for me. I'm going to go back."

Robert Bailey Post Jr., minister of missions at The Glade Church in Mt. Juliet, Tenn., arrived safely home around 9 p.m. on July 9 with his team of seven. In Haiti, the team served at My Life Speaks ministries in Neply, alongside a mission team from Woodland Community Church in Bradenton, Fla.

The Florida team also arrived safely home, the church reported on Facebook.

In Neply, the team was safe from danger and "didn't feel the effects of the riots," Post said. The team led several Bible studies and a soccer camp daily, he said.

"When they got back, their spirits were high and they were encouraged," Post said. While Neply is only 20 miles from Port-au-Prince, poor road conditions and congestion in Haiti made the trip to the airport two hours long, Post said.

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mtcb.org.

## GUIDESTONE

cont. from p. 1

proposed tariffs was implemented, the hit to U.S. GDP would peak around 0.1%. However, there is a risk that a more negative result could occur if a more comprehensive trade war were to break out," Spika said.

Many of the proposed tariffs may never be enacted, he noted, as negotiators work to level trade between the U.S. and trading allies.

"Market prognosticators always need something to worry

about, and the current trade dispute is no exception," Spika said. To call it an all-out trade war at this stage is premature."

Future global market performance expectations should be tempered not so much because of the concern around tariffs but because the U.S. is now more than nine years into the latest economic expansion — the second-longest peacetime expansion in the economy on record — and because of the financial tightening, including Fed rate hikes, Spika said.

GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins reiterated that retire-

ment plan participants should never try to time the market, as it may "undermine their long-term financial strategies."

"You can't buy yesterday's gains or sell yesterday's losses," Hawkins said. "The performance of your retirement account is based on the results in the markets going forward."

"It's important, regardless of the headlines or the latest social media posts, to put emotions out of the equation and to focus on your long-term objectives. The markets have historically rewarded those with long-term perspectives."

## Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

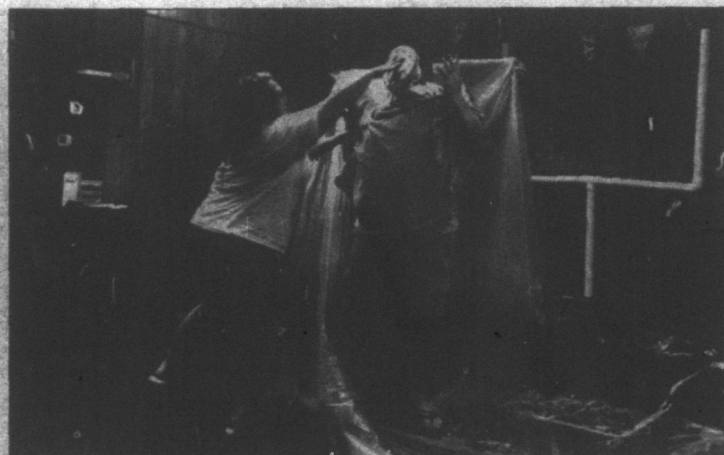
### MAY

#### MEMORIALS

Mrs. Marilyn Brady  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Allen  
Mr. Walter Bridges  
Whitesand BC  
Mrs. Edna Bruton  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted R. Bruton  
Mrs. Jahazel Buckley  
Mr. Ted Buckley  
Linda Busby  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Silahahi  
Read Bush  
Ms. Judy H. Lacy  
Mr. David Campbell  
Lena Norris SSC, Moselle  
Memorial BC  
Mr. Mir'ael Cardinell  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Ms. Betty Carr  
Don Rawls and Donald Rawls, Jr.  
Mrs. Louise Cato  
The Rogers Family  
Mable Cochran  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth R. Wells  
Mary Ruth Colbert  
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Huber  
Mrs. Penny Washington  
Mrs. Mary Ruth Colbert  
Ms. Mary Hobbs  
Harry L. Cole Sr.  
Willie B. Cole  
Ms. Nellon Huff Craft  
Mrs. Patricia C. Duckworth  
Ms. William Dillard  
Mrs. Althea M. Partridge  
Ms. Virginia Dorr  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy W. Welch  
Mr. Buddy Dye  
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Ward  
Buford Easter Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Smothers  
Ms. Frances Ellensburg  
Ms. Barbara Curlee  
Mrs. Joyce Perrill

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Smith  
Ms. Myrtice Fulton  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Fulton  
Mr. Everett Fyock  
Arlington BC  
Elsie Gattlin  
Mrs. Betty L. Hall  
St. Ladies Bible Class, Liberty BC  
Mrs. Dot Gillis  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Wilkinson  
Mr. Gwynn H. Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kennedy  
Mr. Mike Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Potter  
Wanda Smith Grady  
Mary Lou Lott and Ann Lott  
Denton  
Mrs. Beverly McCoy Gray  
Mr. & Mrs. David B. Ingram  
Mr. Robert Gray  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Ellen Gunn  
Ms. Mary Lou Lott  
Mrs. Melba Ables Halbrook  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O.  
Crosthwait, Jr.  
Mr. Charles Hancock  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen E. King  
Jean E. Moreland Harris  
Ms. Mary Lou Lott  
Ms. Lesine Harvey  
Faithful Workers SSC, Oak  
Forest BC  
Mrs. Rita Harris  
Rev. William B. Webb  
Betty Jean Hawkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Oakes  
Dr. Dora R. Herring  
Ms. Linda Blair  
Mrs. Bill Hess  
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts  
Ruth Hester  
Ms. Janice H. Allen  
Mrs. Wendy Champion Hood  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion  
Mrs. Jane Hovess  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan

Mrs. C. P. Huff  
Mrs. Patricia C. Duckworth  
Mrs. Mary Jarrell  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Wheat  
Ms. Anna "Breezy" Johnson  
Mr. Gary Crouch  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy G. Hastings  
Ms. Violet T. McBride  
Mrs. Edith Jones  
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Ward  
Ms. Oneida Jones  
The Marion Johnston Family  
Ms. Ella Rose Jordan  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Mrs. Sallie Kapp  
Arlington BC  
Mr. Don Kelley  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kelley  
Peggy H. Keyes  
Kimble R. Keyes  
Mrs. Juanita Kirby  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted R. Bruton  
Mrs. Freddie Roberts Knight  
Ms. Jill E. Knight  
Mrs. Manarah "Billie" Leake  
Dr. & Mrs. Dunbar McCurley  
Mr. Harold Lewis  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan  
Ms. Lona Lindsey  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Dr. Jon Lomme  
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Ward  
Mrs. Jackie Lord  
Nay B. Reed  
Ethel M. Lott  
Mary Lou Lott  
Ann Lott Denton  
Mrs. Margaret Lowrey  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Wilkinson  
Ms. Billie Ruth Lowrey  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Hegan  
Mrs. Nell Luke  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Wilkinson  
Mr. Edwin Benz McCoy  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett  
Melanie S. McCoy  
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys  
Ms. Rowena McGee  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Sue McKinsey  
Ms. Mary Lou Lott  
Bonnie Jean Spears McNeel  
Ms. Gail Donald  
Jean McNeel  
Bill, Laura, Christopher &  
Matthew Hopeck  
Mrs. Jean Spears McNeel  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary P. Hollimon  
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Snow  
Mr. C. Jerome Kittrell  
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Wilkinson  
Mrs. Lucile Mikell  
Miss Lucy Mikell  
Mr. Jimmy Mitchell  
Ms. Barbara Curlee  
Mr. Kevin Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Gore, III  
Doris Moss  
Mrs. Jean S. Moss and Family  
Hazel Myers  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Oakes  
Mrs. Doris Nicholas  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Wilkinson  
Mr. Francis Glen Oglesby  
JOY SSC, FBC-St Cloud FL  
Mr. Bob Palmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark E. Gunn  
J. B. Parker Jr.  
Ms. Marie S. Graham  
J.V. & Mary K. Parker  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Parker  
Mr. Jessie Payne  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Winnie Peary  
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt M. Foster  
Ms. Susan Fearhman  
Mr. Felix J. Dugas, III  
Ms. Susan Poll  
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Polk  
Mr. Paul Poole  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Dewitt  
Dr. William Preston  
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Chase



▲ Thank you, Mr. Kelly, for taking a pie in the face at the **FLAT TOP UNITY VBS** in Picayune for The BCV. Girls ruled the penny brick contest. Over \$1200 for the children at The Baptist Children's Village.



◀ Thank you to **SILVER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, MCCOMB**, for their support of The BCV. They collected paper goods and collected a generous offering for our ministry. Pictured is Tena Hall, VBS co-director.

## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at [ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).



## Deposed • 2 Samuel 15:10-16, 24-30

Sunday afternoon, June 17th, I was reading the Bible Background material for this lesson. It is my custom to first read the Bible material before reading any commentary on the material to try to let the Bible itself speak to me first with the Holy Spirit's guidance. My college pastor, Brother Carmon Conner, was trying to help me learn to prepare sermons and other Bible teaching lessons and strongly recommended prayerfully picking a text well ahead of the presentation time and then read it carefully and prayerfully. He said if I would do that I would be pleasantly surprised how often God would use the regular happenings of life to explain and illustrate the text. He was right and it happened again on that Sunday afternoon, Fathers' Day.

I read the text for this lesson that Fathers' Day and the depth of King David's emotions and feeling became more apparent. I sat in my living room and my oldest daughter was reading in the room as well. My son and one of my grandsons had just left. For me, it was a time when their love for me as their dad and granddad was overflowing and its warm, secure, loving feeling was deep in my heart. In this personal state of mind, I read about David's son, Absalom and his callous, treacherous scheme. David explained to his closest aides and all his servants in these

words, "Look, my own son, my own flesh and blood, intends to take my life—" 2 Samuel 16:11 (HCSB).

2 Samuel 15:30 (CSB) tells us about David's narrow escape from his son and the rebel army, "David was climbing the slope of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he ascended. His head was covered, and he was walking barefoot. All of the people with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they ascended." Once again Nathan's prophecy (from the account of David's murder of Bathsheba's husband) comes true: "Now therefore, the sword will never leave your house because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hethite to be your own wife. 'This is what the LORD says, 'I am going to bring disaster on you from your own family [Absalom]: I will take your wives and give them to another before your very eyes, and he will sleep with them in broad daylight,' " 2 Samuel 12:10-11 (CSB).

Absalom's rebellion seemed to be having great success and he proclaimed

himself king in his father's place. To prove that he had totally taken all of his dad's authority and gained total victory, Absalom brazenly raped all ten of David's wives (concubines) left behind. "Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, 'Give [me] your advice. What should we do?' Ahithophel replied to Absalom, 'Sleep with your father's concubines he left to take care of the palace. When all Israel hears that you have become repulsive to your father, everyone with

come back to Jerusalem and immediately begin to build a base from which to rebel.

One of Absalom's dramatic approaches to win favorable public attention is described in the first of the 15th chapter. "After this, Absalom got himself a chariot, horses, and 50 men to run before him," 2 Samuel 15:1 (HCSB). Having special body guards run by your vehicle is apparently still considered by some dramatic despots as a way to impress and control the masses. Did you see Kim Jong-un's body guards running beside his limousine when he met with our president? The North Korean dictator acted as though the dramatic show of power made him more acceptable to his subjects.

Absalom used this dramatic show of royal power (though not real) to fool people into wanting him as King instead of his dad. He tricked 200 men from Jerusalem to follow him without realizing he was going to Hebron to rebel against King David. Then in a bold but false claim, Absalom had announcements made across Israel, "Absalom is king in Hebron." David and his court had to run from Jerusalem to save their lives.

Hicks is associational missions director for Jasper Association in Bay Springs.



Explore the Bible  
with Don Hicks

the sight of all Israel," 2 Samuel 16:20-22 (HCSB).

This blatant immorality shows us a reason why Absalom could not maintain his rebellion. Sleeping with his father's wives was an open violation of Leviticus 18:8 (HCSB) "You are not to have sex with your father's wife; it will shame your father." Absalom had a flare for political drama but not for being a loyal son or living responsibly. He tricked his father into letting him

## Pray • Nehemiah 1:1-11

In a large city, late evening, we drove across an overpass. Sleeping people, many shirtless and shoeless, lined the overpass. The desire to do something overwhelmed me. Many times since, that image fills my mind, and I am overwhelmed.

Following the great tsunami in Thailand, a young woman shared many stories about homeless families, orphans, and great devastation. One little girl, 7, still haunts me; she would sit for hours and stare at her devastated village as tears slipped down her cheeks.

Social media bombards us with stories of those who are devastated by disease, hunger, war, unspeakable abuse and tragedies. Do we book the first plane and offer our assistance? Do we send money, clothes, food? What do we do? Do we act at all?

Nehemiah was serving in Susa when he learned of a situation in his home country that caused him to weep and mourn (Nehemiah 1:4).

**Nehemiah 1:1-3. Become aware of the needs around you.** While Nehemiah was serving in Susa as King Artaxerxes' cup bearer, his brother and some others visited from Judah. Nehemiah inquired about Jerusalem and the welfare of those who had returned from exile. Nehemiah's visitors informed him that the city and the people were "in great trouble and disgrace," Nehemiah 1:3 (NLT)

**Nehemiah 1:4-7. Acknowledge God and confess sin.** Nehemiah responded to the news concerning Jerusalem with tears, mourning, fasting, and prayer (vs 4). The remainder of Chapter 1 is Nehemiah's heartfelt prayer concerning his burden for Jerusalem.

Nehemiah begins his prayer with a declaration of Who God is and His "...unfailing love with those who love Him and obey His commands" (vs 5 - NLT). Nehemiah follows with an appeal for God to listen as he prays "...night and day..." (vs. 6).

Following a humble request for God to listen and an acknowledgment that God's covenant is with those who love and obey Him, Nehemiah begins to confess sin: his personal sin, his family's sin, and the sins of the people of Israel.

Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to come "boldly" in prayer to God. Romans 8:5 reminds us to approach God as "Abba Father" without fear because we have been adopted by God and are His children. Though we are to approach God boldly and pour out our greatest burdens, we are to approach respectful-

ly. Nehemiah acknowledges that God is great and faithful, that He is a God Who keeps His covenant. Yet, Nehemiah acknowledges that God expects His people to love and obey. Nehemiah confesses sin because he knows God does not hear those who practice sin and regard sin as more important than keeping covenant with Him. Psalm 66:18 (NLT)

**Nehemiah 1:8-11. Look to God for guidance.** Nehemiah continues his prayer by reminding God of His

promise to Moses that if the people were unfaithful they would be scattered, but that He would return them to their

home upon the occasion of their repentance - which God has fulfilled. Nehemiah begs God to be aware of the present situation of His people and to cause the king whom Nehemiah serves to be "favorable" and "kind" to Nehemiah so that he might act concerning the people in Jerusalem.

Though the situation was extreme, Nehemiah sought God before acting. Nehemiah continued to fulfill his re-

sponsibilities until the time that God would begin to reveal His will concerning the situation. Nehemiah's friends visited in Autumn (vs 1 - NLT). Nehemiah would not see any visible results from his prayers until "Early the following spring..." Nehemiah 2:1 (NLT).

Regardless of the pain, danger, or fear in our hearts, the first place that Believers should turn is prayer. Often prayer is viewed as a last resort or the "only thing we can do." Prayer empowers a Believer to respond in the Spirit; therefore, prayer is a Believer's first and best response. Jesus withdrew regularly to pray (Luke 6). Jesus gave His Disciples a model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), and it resembled Nehemiah's prayer. The model begins by acknowledging God's character and position, and encourages the Believer to seek God for daily needs and forgiveness of sin.

What is the Believer's proper response when faced with news of overwhelming need or devastation? Prayer. God is our Heavenly Father. God sees situations from all perspectives: past, present, and future. God has the correct answer and our correct response. He will answer when we turn our hearts to Him and seek Him with reverence and integrity of heart.

Bannister is a member of Woodville Church, Woodville.

## Bible Studies for Life with Lisa Bannister



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## Vacation Bible School



**PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, held Vacation Bible School on June 4-8. Family Night on June 10 included a presentation of VBS songs by participants. Average daily attendance was 124, with 133 in the highest-attended session. Floyd Higginbotham, pastor.



**SUNRISE CHURCH, CARTHAGE**: June 4 - 8, with a total of ten classes.



**POPLAR SPRINGS CHURCH, MENDENHALL**: Family worship June 22; average attendance, 80, with seven professions of faith and a \$1170 missions offering.



**TUCKERS CROSSING CHURCH, LAUREL**: The children collected enough money to build one longhouse in Malaysia and the preschool collected items for the Baptist Children's Village. Celeste Hickman, Baptist Children's Village, was guest speaker for Family Day. Marshall and Karen Fitzgerald, VBS directors; Eddie Bryant, pastor.



**EPHESUS CHURCH, FOREST**: June 3 - 8, with classes for children, youth, and adult.



**CENTER CHURCH, BLUE SPRINGS**, hosted Greg Spencer June 27 during VBS as he shared his call to plant a church in Las Vegas. The missions offering went toward the church plant.



**BETHEL CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, celebrated 2018 VBS commencement.



**FARMHAVEN CHURCH, CLINTON**: average attendance, 72; at least two professions of faith; \$1083.61 missions offering.

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Antioch Church, Hazlehurst**: Revival, July 22-25; mini-concert with Ronnie and Beverly Cottingham, Sun. 10:30 a.m., Chris Jemison, speaker, followed by fellowship meal; Mon.-Tues. services, 7 p.m., Eddie Martin, speaker; Wed. service 7 p.m., Lee Mathis, speaker; Larry Hendricks, pastor.

► **Calvary Church, Carroll Association**: Revival, July 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Chuck Provine, speaker; Wesley Davis, worship; Bud

Vance, pastor. For information call (662) 385-3355.

► **Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia**: Summer revival, July 27-29; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; Sun., lunch in fellowship hall, 11:30 a.m.; Fri.-Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Bill and Senita Webb, speakers; Mike and Angela Britt, worship; Laverne Summerlin, pastor.

► **Locke Station Church, Marks**: Summer Revival, July 29-August 1; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ricky Red, speaker; Rusty Miller, worship; Rusty Miller, pastor.